WO 03/059-462 PCT/CH03/00028

## Patent claims

1. A sling for the purpose of attaching or carrying loads, characterized in that a tube fabric (4) or a tube-like fabric, or knit, exhibits two ends (5, 6), one of which is embodied so as to be narrower or approximately of equal size and the other is embodied so as to be broader or of equal size relative to the rest of the tubular fabric, which is found between the ends, that the two ends (5, 6) form a connection site (7) in that the narrower end (5) is extant, inserted into the broader end (6), into each other [sic] and exhibits, in the area of the connection site (7), at least one seam (8), which connects both ends (5, 6), as a result of which the connection site (7), is embodied, for a prescribed strength, more thinly, shorter, or more narrowly than in the case of overlapping ends of the customary type.

- 2. A sling according to claim 1, characterized in that the sling exhibits, on the upper and lower surfaces (15, 15'), a connection site (7) that is 50% thinner, with a smaller transition of the two ends (5, 6) than is the case with overlapping ends of the customary type.
- 3. A sling according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the connection site (7) of the two ends (5, 6), which are inserted into each other and as a result of the sewing together of the two ends (5, 6), which are joined within each other to two fabrics each instead of one fabric each, exhibits a substantially higher tensile strength at the connection site.
- 4. A sling according to one of the claims 1 3, characterized in that the connection site (7) of the two ends (5, 6), which are inserted into one another, whereby one end (6) is a tube and the other end (5) is an inelastic, a partially elastic, or an elastic band, that the sewing together of the ends exhibits a higher tensile strength and a slighter thickening at the connection site.
- 5. A sling according to one of the claims 1 4, characterized in that the tubular fabric (4), at at least one other site, is embodied in the cross-section more thinly or narrowly relative to the remaining tubular fabric and as a result, exhibits at least one narrow area or one narrow site (9).
- 6. A sling according to one of the claims 1 5, characterized in that the tubular fabric (4) is embodied at at least one site as a band and at at least one site as a cord and that these sites are aligned in random sequence next to each other and they allow themselves to be connected by means of insertion.
- 7. A sling according to one of the claims 1 6, characterized in that the tubular fabric (4) exhibits drawstrings (11) that lie freely within the tubular fabric, so that the tubular fabric serves as a protective mantle against [sharp] edges and cuts.

WO 03/059-462 PCT/CH03/00028

8. A sling according to one of the claims 1-7, characterized in that the tubular fabric (4) is elastic and the drawstrings (11) are inelastic, or that the tubular fabric (4) is inelastic and the drawstrings (11) are elastic.

- 9. A sling according to one of the claims 1 8, characterized in that the tubular fabric (4), in the narrow area (9), is embodied as a cord.
- 10. A sling according to one of the claims 1 9, characterized in that the tubular fabric (4) is comprised of a combination of materials that are distinct with respect to elasticity, expansion behavior, resistance to being cut, resistance to tearing and resistance to abrasion, as a result of which an optimum of tensile strength, resistance to abrasion and ability to resist being cut is given in conjunction with low weight.
- 11. A sling according to one of the claims 1 10, characterized in that the tubular fabric (4) is comprised of a combination of highly strong fibers of Dyeema, Kevlar, aramide, polyester and polyamide.
- 12. The use of the sling according to one of the claims 1 11 in the sport of climbing.
- 13. The use of the sling according to one of the claims 1 11 as a climbing sling or a stopping sling in the area of occupational safety.
- 14. The use of the sling according to one of the claims 1 11 for a ski pole or for a ski and snowboard binding.
- 15. The use of the sling according to one of the claims 1 11 for a knapsack support belt.

WO 03/059-462 PCT/CH03/00028

Drawings 1 – 11 follow, bearing the inscription REPLACEMENT SHEET (RULE 26).